



Karen C. Watson

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Karen C. Watson

SCHOOL: Prospect Point Elementary

SUBJECT: 4th Grade

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 12 years

Q. Explain the "Literature Set" activity your students are doing.

A. Every student is divided into a set of four and they are all reading a book together and answering questions about that book.

Q. How does this help students learn?

A. We wanted to liven up our reading and give the students something interesting to work on. The students enjoy their books and like talking about them.

Q. Why is it important to group the students?

A. They like working together and it gives them an opportunity to work with kids from other classes. The students come from all three of our 4th grade classes.

Q. How do your team teachers help you manage your time?

A. At Prospect Point we have an open classroom building design so all three classes interact with each other all the time. I work closely with my teammates to help me juggle the time. We work and plan together so we can divide up the tasks and get all the work done.

Q. How do you make parents feel at ease in your classroom?

A. We have an open door policy for our parents. They can come in any time they like and we can find something for them to do to help us.

## COMMENTS FROM PROSPECT POINT PRINCIPAL CHRIS GARDEA:

"It's a great day in 4th grade,' has become the motto of Prospect Point's fourth grade teachers! Karen's positive attitude, and her desire to meet her students' needs is appreciated. Karen helps our staff make sense of assessment data. Her commitment to teaching extends past Prospect Point, as has been demonstrated through her participation in district committees."

Over



**MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
KAREN C. WATSON'S CLASS:**



**COMMENTS FROM KAREN...**

"We team teach at Prospect Point. All of the students in 4th grade belong to all of us and we believe in this philosophy. Our students know they can come to any of us for help and support."

I have mixed thoughts on the WASL changes. I believe the WASL has improved education. But it does take too much time. If they can get us results quicker and take less class time, that would help.



I'm excited about the development of online grades. But, as teachers it's our responsibility to communicate with parents about how their child is doing. They should not have to rely solely on online grades. It's our job first.